



THE direct path to a housewife's heart lies through her linen closet. Every true woman has an instinctive love for linen; the beautiful fabric, with its handmaiden embroidery, appeals to her domestic affections. It is identified with the social functions of the home and the sacred service of the church. A recent bride, who received wedding gifts of marvellous value, expressed herself as being most interested in the present of a complete service, in all sizes, of hemstitched satin damask linen. Each article bore in exquisite hand embroidery her name, the date of her marriage, and a "shower" of orange flowers and lilies of the valley.

Linen may well lay claim to high consideration. It is a textile aristocrat, being the oldest woven fabric known. Its origin is involved in mystery, but pieces acknowledged to be over four thousand years old are in existence. Who was the fair one who discovered the possibilities of the little blue-flowered flax plant, and how did she spin her linen, since the fabric antedates the spindle and the distaff?

There are linens and linens. Every good embroiderer should be well acquainted with the textile value of the linen she uses for her beautiful adorning. She need not, like the linen expert, count with the linen prover the number of threads to the square inch, but she should be familiar with the different qualities and virtues of the linen accepted for embroidery, and be able to select the special kind for each specific work.

First, for the church: Many a good woman enthusiastically toils with untiring industry through the weeks of Lent that Easter may see a new fair-linen set upon the altar, or a new surplice and other priestly linen wear in the church wardrobe. Fine Irish linen in both the round and flat thread is used for church work, and is specially named "altar linen." It is one yard wide, and ranges from 75 cents to \$1.25 per yard. Nine pieces compose a communion linen service. The embroidery follows ecclesiastical designs. Surplices are frequently made of linen cambric, forty-five inches wide, as it cuts to better advantage. The centre of the back, front and end of sleeves are embroidered.

Household linens of sheets, pillow slips, bolster cases, pillow shams and tablecloths are in Irish or German linen, and are duly embroidered.

In table linen are countless varieties, plain and damask, with napkins to match in all sizes. Ireland, France, Germany and Scotland all contribute to the immense supply, each country differing in textile peculiarities. But it is conceded that the Irish linen possesses the greatest number of excellencies. Those of France are exquisitely beautiful and fine. The German and Scotch linens are heavier in thread and weave.

Table linen is frequently made more beautiful by drawn-work and hemstitching. Crests, names, monograms, coats-of-arms, floral and conventional designs are embroidered on the satin texture. Many artistic and standard patterns in the linen damasks lend themselves to embroidery, and for their further ornamentation special designs should be drawn. One, for instance, is an exact copy of Queen Victoria's coronation robe, and is a reproduction in linen of the brocade of that royal garment. The Belgian round thread linen, fifty-four inches wide and \$1.25 per yard, is generally selected for embroidering buffet scarfs, centre pieces, tray covers, dollies, etc.; also for Battenberg and Honiton lace-braid work. It comes besides in one and two yard widths.

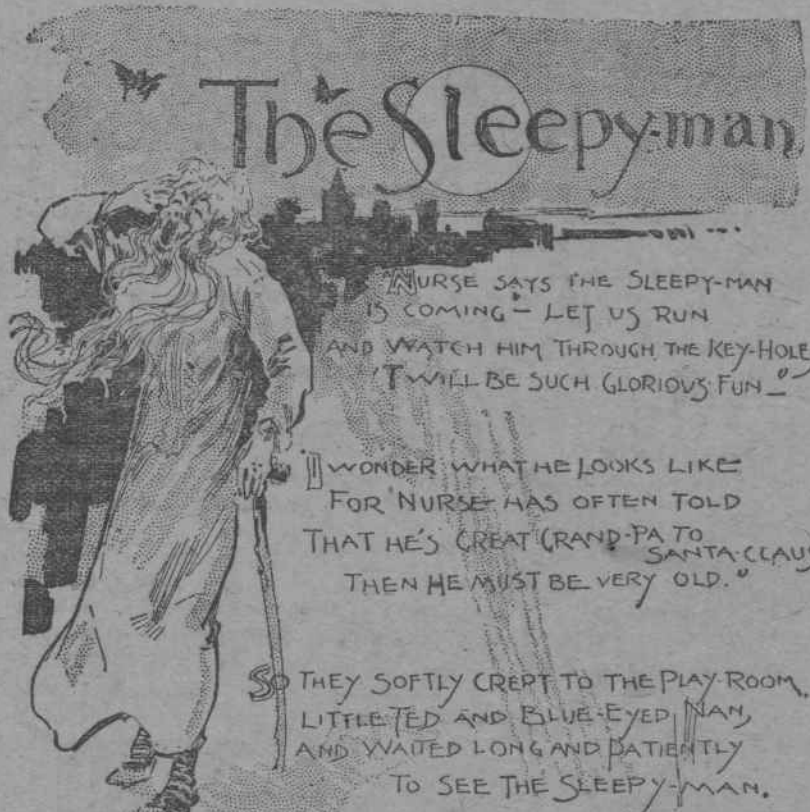
Old-bleach linen is preferred for hemstitching and drawn-work; also for embroidered lingerie. Shirt bosom linen is too closely woven for general embroidery. For very fine and sheer work, Japanese or Chinese linen, with its beautiful silken surface, is selected. The colored wash linens, from 40 to 75 cents per yard, are a great boon to the art embroiderer. They come in fast colored blues, yellows, greens, pinks, mauve, old rose, navy blue, tans, ecru and browns. These art linens are adapted for sofa pillows, table cloths, book covers, picture frames and countless other purposes. The exact "college colors" will soon be brought out in linens.

Syrian linen, heavy and broken thread, dyed before woven, is best for tablecloths, curtains and all heavy work. It is adaptable to simple, bold designs in outline and long and short stitch, is forty inches wide and 75 cents per yard. Russian crash divides with colored art linens the demand for piazza and hammock pillows and cushions. The fine quality is admirable for book covers, picture frames and many other purposes. Agrá linens are also used for pillows.

Other embroidery textiles are butchers', Bulgarian, birdseye linens, and many linen and linen and silk upholstery goods. Although this is purely a linen textile article, as allied to embroidery, yet in closing it is well to add that the best of linen may be ruined with commonplace embroidery. Care should be exercised to secure original and artistic designs.

One of the most eminent of French physicians, the late Dujardin-Beau-netz, urged for years before his death that persons of light or feeble digestion should not eat raw oysters, because they contain a chemical which excites fermentation as soon as it comes in contact with the gastric juice. Being an easy carrier of germs, too, the oyster communicates very readily any pathogenic microbe which it may contain to the intestinal canal and trouble begins at once. Recent investigations corroborate the opinion of the French scientist, and may lead to the banishment of the hitherto esteemed raw oyster from the list of convalescent dainties. It is already an established fact that its nutritive qualities have been much overrated.

A corsage bouquet of violets may be worn several times and still kept fresh if stems are wrapped in a thin fringe of batting that has been dipped in salt water and then rolled in tin foil of the color of the flowers. When the flowers are worn keep them in a cool room, with the stems in a glass of water, and the flowers with tissue paper to keep air from



AT LAST IT CAME THEIR BEDTIME,  
AND NURSE LOOKED ALL AROUND  
FOR BABY NAN AND LITTLE TED,  
BUT NEITHER COULD BE FOUND.

SO THEN SHE SOUGHT THE PLAY ROOM,  
AND LO! BEHIND THE DOOR  
THE SLEEPY MAN HAD CAUGHT THEM BOTH  
AND LAID THEM ON THE FLOOR.

Flour should be kept with the greatest care, as it takes on the odor of things about it, and becomes tainted almost as easily as do milk and butter. As it also becomes heavy and mouldy in a damp place, it should be kept where weather changes will not affect it. The lightness and dryness of the flour, of course, has a great deal to do with the superior quality of the bread and cake made from it. When flour is bought by the barrel, a patented convenience that consists of a swinging shelf that raises the barrel a few inches from the floor, so that the air may circulate freely about it, is liked by housekeepers who have space for it.

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